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Grant XVII—cont.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I should like to ask the hon. Member in charge of Local Self-Government what the pay of this officer will be."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Rs. 1,250 a month."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I should also like to know whether it is proposed to recruit this officer by advertisement."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes ; I think, by the High Commissioner."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" May I know, Sir, what bio-chemistry means, and how it will help in diagnosing diseases ?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It deals with the chemical side of biological process."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" I wish to make one suggestion, Sir. During my perigrinations to the British Universities, it was brought to my notice that these medical appointments, especially the professional appointments in the medical colleges, were not properly advertised in those universities and it was suggested to me that the best way of staffing the Indian universities was to get the best men out of those who were already engaged in teaching in the British Universities. In the interest of the medical profession—not in view of this particular service or that particular appointment, but in the interest of proficiency in teaching in our universities—I suggest that the men should be recruited either from the British or other Universities. I wish to know if this is what is proposed to be done."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is proposed to have the services of this special officer through the Secretary of State and the High Commissioner."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Is it proposed to advertise this appointment ?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The discretion is left to the Secretary of State."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Then I must enter a word of protest. I think that if the Local Government has any degree of interest in the appointment, it must make its best effort to get the best man and it should not leave the matter to the Secretary of State. That is exactly the point that I wanted to press."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

V

(1)

A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I beg to move, Sir, that the Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, be read in Council. Sir, the Bill is more or less a formal one. It has been published in the gazette and the statement accompanying the Bill explains its objects and reasons."

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU seconded the motion.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ I only wish to point out that this Bill is not quite so non-controversial a measure as to be passed at this sitting of the House. It was published in the *Port St. George Gazette* only on the 12th of this month, and would have reached mufassal Members about the 14th or 15th. I do not know if any translation of it has been published in the vernacular. If the Bill is merely to be introduced and not passed at this sitting, I would not have considered it necessary to make this suggestion that the hon. the Minister would do well to give sufficient time for all possible views to be expressed before it is taken up for consideration. It will be remembered that the City Municipal Act was passed only in 1919 and it is for the purpose of amending an important provision of it that this Bill is brought forward. The information now before us is to the effect that about thirteen members of the Corporation have given notice of a resolution dealing with this Bill and the Corporation has not considered it. I leave it to the Members to consider whether it is not a case in which we had better have a definite opinion of the Corporation. Seeing that the time allowed for the consideration of the Bill is less than a week—the Bill was technically published on the 12th and communicated later than that—it is better that it is taken up at a future date.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao, himself has admitted that the Bill is one of a non-controversial nature. It does not interest the mufassal Members as it does the Members of the city. Sir, this first amendment in the Bill has been found rather urgent because it provides for the appointment of the Corporation officers as honorary officers and so on wherever their services are necessary. In fact, Sir, the services of the present Commissioner will be required in connexion with the running of the show of the proposed industrial exhibition. So, if we delay the passing of this Bill, it will not be possible to have the services of the Commissioner in connexion with the running of the exhibition. In these circumstances, Sir, it is found necessary to have this Bill passed as early as possible.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ Mr. President, there is no urgency at all to pass this Bill at present, because the Madras Corporation who are entirely responsible for the administration of the City Municipal Act have not passed a resolution desiring such an amendment in their meeting. They do not ask for any amendment of the Act. The history of this amendment is this. The present Commissioner of the Madras Corporation, in addition to his appointment as a Commissioner of the Corporation, is holding some other appointment and drawing some money.”

The hon. Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ He is not holding any such appointment, Sir.”

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ He was holding anyhow the office of the Urdu translator to Government. According to the Act, the Commissioner of the Corporation must be a full-time man. So the audit department objected to the present Commissioner holding any other appointment except that of the Commissioner of the Corporation. He had therefore to resign that appointment. It is to enable the Commissioner to hold that appointment again that this Bill has been brought before this Council. As one of the ways of hiding that man the names of the Health Officer and the Revenue Officer are added to it.”

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The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I do not know whether it is open to members of this House to impute motives."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" There is no motive at all. This Bill is brought before the Council to show to the members that it is to enable the Commissioner to hold honorary appointments. Sir, as it is, the Commissioner is burdened with any amount of work. We pay a large amount of his pay and the ratepayers of the city expect that every pie should be utilized for the services of the Corporation. In these circumstances we do not want the Commissioner to undertake any other office except that already entrusted to him. The other officers have all got enough to do and in fact they have been complaining of too much work. So I oppose this Bill being permitted to be read in this Council."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know whether the views of the Corporation as regards the proposals contained in this Bill have been ascertained before it was brought before this Council? The officers are really their servants and we should know whether they are agreeable to this proposal apart from any other question. If it is a matter of such great urgency, I think my hon. Friend should have taken the ordinary course and asked for the suspension of rules to pass this measure."

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB :—" Sir, I beg to support the motion made by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. It was stated that this Bill was brought to remove the difficulty regarding the holding of the Persian translator's post by the present Commissioner. Even supposing that this is the reason I do not see anything wrong in it. The question whether the services of the present Commissioner could be utilized as a Persian and Hindustani translator to the Government came up before the Corporation and in a resolution they unanimously approved of the suggestion made by Government. Therefore the Corporation has already committed itself to the position now taken up by the hon. the Minister in this Bill. Now, Sir, the question does not arise with regard to that consideration at all. The question I am led to believe arose in this way. The present Commissioner happens to be the examiner of the University in Persian and Hindustani and objection seems to have been taken to it. Therefore this motion is brought before us to-day. Further the Health Officer of the Corporation is doing highly specialized work in public health and that knowledge must be communicated to others. But according to the interpretation now put on the Act he is unable to give lectures to the sanitary inspectors and to the B.S.Sc. students of the Medical College. In these circumstances the Minister thought it was much better to move this amendment. I therefore give my hearty support to the Bill."

Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, I am very sorry to see that my friend, Dr. U. Rama Rao, has been imputing motives to the Government. However, I may tell you how the matter stands. There was a time when the present Commissioner was a translator to the Government. The Government asked the Corporation to give its opinion in the matter, and as Mr. Usman Sahib said, the Corporation had unanimously given its consent and allowed him to take up other work. Now, Sir, another difficulty arose and that is about the coming exhibition. And this Bill, as the hon. the Minister observed, is the outcome of it. There was also another trouble in the case of Mr. Madley who has been asked by the University to deliver a series of lectures. In this way the matter is coming before the

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Council to utilize the services of municipal officers in other ways. These municipal officers are experts in certain branches and their services ought to be utilized in other ways whenever they are needed. I do not see why their services should be utilized by the Corporation alone and not by the Government. It is to avoid this difficulty that this Bill is brought forward. There is also a safeguard in the Bill that the services of these officers will be utilized only when the permission of the Government as well as the Council is obtained. If the Council were to think that a man ought not to be allowed they can then pass a resolution. In these circumstances, I support the motion."

The hon. Mr. K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—"I only want to remove a misapprehension which may be caused in the minds of the members of this Council. The present Commissioner of the Corporation happens to be the Chairman of the Urdu and Hindustani Board in the University of Madras. When suddenly we were left without a Persian and Hindustani translator it struck me that that gentleman could attend to the duties temporarily till a permanent officer was appointed. I take the responsibility, Sir, for having appointed him temporarily. The department is under my charge. When my attention was drawn to the wording of

11-45 a.m. this section in the City Municipal Act, we asked him to resign, and he did resign immediately. It often happens that we want examiners to examine the students in the Persian, Hindustani and Urdu languages; and this gentleman was on occasions appointed to do examining work. He has now done some examining work for which he is entitled to a certain amount of remuneration. The question has been raised whether he can receive it, and the matter is still under consideration. In these circumstances, especially looking to the wording of the present section that a Commissioner of the Corporation shall devote the whole of his time for his work—I take it this means his official time and not all the 24 hours—there is a doubt raised whether he can occasionally be an examiner and whether he can do any honorary work for the University. Even in the case of Government servants who are full-time officers of the Government, the Government allow them to take up honorary work and also to receive occasional remuneration. In order to clear the ambiguity, though it was suggested that the existing section does not prevent the Commissioner from doing any honorary work and from taking occasional remuneration for occasional work, it was thought safe to amend the section so as to bring it in conformity with the usual rules regulating Government servants."

Rao Sahib C. NATESA MUPALIYAR :—"Sir, Mr. President, I strongly support the motion now before the House. Of course, if the services of our Commissioner are indispensable to the Corporation to the fullest extent in the interests of the public, there are sufficient safeguards for that. As my leader has remarked, the consent of the Corporation and the Government is a pre-requisite. Moreover, our Commissioner is such an energetic officer that our work in the Corporation will not suffer."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I must say, Sir, that the motive which my hon. Friend, Mr. Rama Rao, has attributed to the Government is at best gratuitous. On a former occasion the Corporation was asked if the services of its Commissioner could be utilized for special work, and the Corporation said it had no objection. In the present case why the demand

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has not come from the Corporation is because the urgency is for the Government and not for the Corporation. The show of the exhibition is to be run by the Government and not by the Corporation, and that is why it is the Government that are interested. That is the reason why the request has not come from the Corporation. Three of the Corporation members who have taken part in the debate on this motion have stated that they have no objection to the Bill being passed. The provisions of the Bill insist on the previous approval of the Corporation for the utilization of the services of these officers either by the Government or by any other body. In these circumstances I do not see any reason why there should be any objection to the passage of the Bill."

The motion was put and carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I move that the Bill be not referred to a Select Committee."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I request the hon. the President to suspend the operation of Standing Order No. 39."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I second it."

The hon. the President suspended the operation of Standing Order No. 39.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put to the Council and carried.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I now move, Sir, that the Bill be passed into law."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried, and the Bill was passed into law.

(2)

[A BILL TO REGULATE STATE AID TO INDUSTRIES, 1922—*cont.*

Consideration of the Bill to regulate State aid to Industries, 1922, was then resumed.

Clause 3.

Sub-clause (2).

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to move

6. (i) *After the words 'banking interests' insert the words 'and mufassal or cottage industries'.*

(ii) *Omit the words 'one of'.*

(iii) *For the words 'a person' substitute the words 'as far as possible, persons'.*

(iv) *Omit the full stop at the end and add the words 'or industries'.*